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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/761,511	01/16/2001	Takayuki Hisanaka	2309/OI158	5640

7590 02/12/2007
DARBY & DARBY P.C.
805 Third Avenue
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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, CATHARINE L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3761

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/761,511	HISANAKA, TAKAYUKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	C. Lynne Anderson	3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 21 November 2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 21 November 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the applicant's argument that Ehrnsperger fails to disclose that the support layer substantially entirely and directly coats the skin-protective ingredient containing layer, it is noted that Ehrnsperger discloses a support layer that is soluble and covers at least a portion of the body facing surface of the article, as disclosed in column 11, lines 3-5. The entire body facing surface of the article falls within the scope of the disclosure by Ehrnsperger of 'at least a portion,' since covering the entire surface is covering at least a portion of the surface. Therefore, Ehrnsperger still anticipates the present claims, and the rejection stands.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ehrnsperger et al. (6,160,200).

With respect to claims 1-3 and 8-10, Ehrnsperger discloses an absorbent article 20 comprising a liquid pervious topsheet 24, a backsheet 26, and an absorbent core 26, as shown in figures 1-6. A skin-protective ingredient containing layer is applied to the upper surface of the topsheet 24, as disclosed in column 6, line 64-column 7, line 17, in a predetermined pattern. The skin-protective ingredient is fully capable of forming an oily film on the skin of a wearer. A support layer 66 is formed over the skin protective ingredient containing layer, as disclosed in column 17, lines 59-62, and covers substantially the entire article, as disclosed in column 11, lines 3-5. The support layer 66 is soluble in water at and above 25 degrees Celsius, as disclosed in column 10, lines 36-53 and column 13, lines 1-23. It is the examiner's position that since the support layer is soluble in water, at 100% humidity, the support layer is therefore promoted at 100% humidity, which is greater than 30% humidity. The support layer 66 comprises polyvinyl alcohol, as disclosed in column 11, lines 38-41. The support layer 66 is

therefore capable of exposing the skin protective ingredient containing layer to the skin of a wearer after dissolving.

With respect to claim 7, the absorbent article 20, as shown in figure 2, further comprises a leak-preventive cuff and a leg cuff, as disclosed in column 9, lines 49-50 and column 17, lines 18-55.

With respect to claim 11, the support layer 66 further comprises a body adhering composition formed of a polyethylene oxide, as disclosed in column 15, lines 58-67.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehrnsperger et al. (6,160,200) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Roe et al. (5,607,760).

Ehrnsperger discloses all aspects of the claimed invention but remains silent as to the composition of the skin-protective ingredient. Ehrnsperger discloses in column 7, lines 2-5, the skin-care ingredient comprises the lotion described in U.S. Patent No. 5,607,760 to Roe et al.

Roe discloses in column 10, lines 5-10, the skin-protective ingredient containing layer comprises liquid at 35 degrees Celsius. Roe further discloses in column 15, lines

55-56, petroleum jelly. The skin-protective ingredient of Roe reduces adherence of waste to the wearer and improves skin softness, as disclosed in column 3, lines 3-9.

It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide the lotion taught by Roe as the skin-protective ingredient of Ehrnsperger, to reduce adherence of waste to the wearer and improve skin softness.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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cla
February 2, 2007

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tatyana Zalukaeva".